

Appl. No. 09/849,843
Atty. Docket No. 8120
Amdt. dated March 29, 2005
Customer No. 27752

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REMARKS

Applicants' undersigned attorney wish to thank the Examiner for his time and favorable consideration for the telephonic interview conducted on March 29, 2005. Art rejections were discussed during the interview.

In this paper, Applicants have amended Claim 1 to define the present invention with more specificity. Support can be found on page 19, lines 1-2 and claim 13. Accordingly, claim 13 is canceled and claim 14 has been amended to depend from claim 1

No new matter has been added. Entry is believed to be proper and respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the amendments, Claims 1-12 and 14-34 are pending. No additional claims fee is believed due.

REJECTIONS

Claim Rejection under 35 USC 102 over Kilgour et al.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-9, 11-24 and 34 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Kilgour et al. (US 6,310,029). The Examiner states that Kilgour et al. teaches a cleaning process and compositions. The Examiner asserts that an example of such process meets all the material limitations of the present claims.

Applicants respectfully traverse to the extent this reference may apply to the claims, as amended herewith.

First, Applicants submit that there is no disclosure in Kilgour et al. of the amount of cleaning fluid contacting the fabric article, specifically, there is no disclosure of amount of cleaning fluid based on the absorptive capacity of the fabric articles. Thus, Kilgour et al. does not anticipate the presently claimed invention.

Second, Kilgour et al. discloses (1) a process for applying the cleaning composition to a least a localized area (e.g., a stained area) and removing it by blotting (Col. 5, lines 11-17 and claims 2 and 3) and (2) an immersive cleaning process wherein the article is immersed in a cleaning composition (Col. 5, lines 18-20 and claims 4 and 5). To a person of ordinary skill in the art, the first embodiment of Kilgour et al. is directed to a spot pretreat process, in which the cleaning composition is applied sparingly to the stained area. In contrast, the presently claimed invention is directed to a uniform application of the cleaning fluid to the

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fabric article and up to the absorptive capacity of the fabric articles. Moreover, the second embodiment of Kilgour et al. is directed to an immersive process, which would employ an excess amount of free fluids to form a wash bath in order to immerse the fabric articles. In contrast, the presently claimed invention is directed to a non-immersive process which contains essentially no free fluids. Therefore, Kilgour et al. does not anticipate the presently claimed invention.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim Rejection under 35 USC 102 over Denissenko et al.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-12, 16, 18-24 and 34 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Denissenko et al. (US 4,336,024). The Examiner states that Denissenko et al. teaches a home drycleaning process wherein a composition is applied to fabrics via a spray method, removed by centrifugal force and fabrics are further dried. The examples of cleaning fluids include hydrocarbons and chlorofluoro alkanes. The Examiner asserts that such process meets all the material limitations of the present claims.

Applicants respectfully traverse to the extent this reference may apply to the claims, as amended herewith.

Applicants point out that there is no disclosure in Denissenko et al. of contacting fabric articles with a cleaning fluid comprising the presently claimed siloxanes solvents. Therefore, Denissenko et al. does not anticipate the presently claimed invention.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim Rejection under 35 USC 102 over Siklosi et al.

The Examiner rejects claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 9-11, 16-24 and 34 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Siklosi et al. (US 5,547,476). The Examiner states that Siklosi et al. teaches dry cleaning compositions that are used in standard dry cleaning machines, which include solvent tanks, filters and solvent exits. The Examiner asserted that the reference meets all the material limitations of the present claims.

Applicants respectfully traverse to the extent this reference may apply to the claims, as amended herewith.

Applicants point out that there is no disclosure in Siklosi et al. of contacting fabric articles with a cleaning fluid comprising the presently claimed siloxanes solvents. Therefore, Siklosi et al. does not anticipate the presently claimed invention.

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Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC 103 over Denissenko et al.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-12, 16 and 18-34 under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Denissenko et al. as applied above. The Examiner also asserted that adding a well known surfactant to the composition of Denissenko would have been obvious.

Applicants respectfully traverse to the extent this reference may apply to the claims, as amended herewith.

Applicants submit that, based on the reasons presented above, Denissenko et al. does not teach or suggest contacting fabric articles with a cleaning fluid comprising the presently claimed siloxanes solvents. Therefore, it does not render the presently claimed invention obvious.

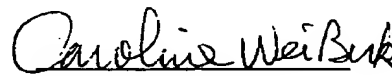
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes the present paper is fully responsive and places Claims 1-12 and 14-34 in condition for allowance.

In the event that issues remain prior to allowance of the noted claims, the Examiner is invited to call Applicant's undersigned attorney to discuss any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,



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